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(54) Title: METHOD FOR ENABLING A USER TO BE NOTIFIED OF HIS/HER POSITIONING REQUESTS
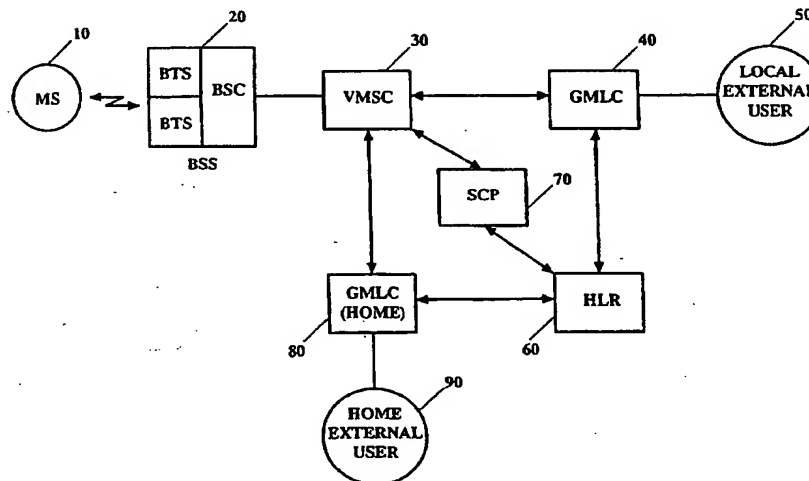
(57) Abstract: The present invention proposes a method for processing an information request in a communication network, wherein a requesting side contacts a first element of said communication network and sends a request for specific information of a subscriber, said method comprising the steps of receiving a request for subscriber specific information, processing the request for said subscriber specific information, wherein in said processing a second network element is triggered, checking by said second network element, whether a permission for releasing said subscriber specific information to said requesting side is present, and, if a permission for releasing is present, forwarding said subscriber specific information to said requesting side, and if no permission for releasing is present, refusing the request for said subscriber specific information. The present invention also proposes a corresponding device and/or system. The present invention enables a consultation of the subscriber whether he/she permits a release of information concerning him/her, e.g. by using an intelligent network environment.

METHOD FOR ENABLING A USER TO BE NOTIFIED OF HIS/HER POSITIONING REQUESTS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates to a method for processing an information request in a communication network, and also relates to a corresponding device and/or a corresponding system. In particular, the present invention is directed to

10   a method and corresponding device and corresponding system for managing subscriber location information in telecommunication networks.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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In the last years, telecommunication systems, in particular mobile telecommunication systems such as GSM (Global System for Mobile communication) and the like, became widely spread all over the world. Due to an increasing competition

20   between network operators the offering of additional services besides the initial object of transmitting speech becomes more and more important.

Recently, a more flexible telecommunication network

25   architecture has been developed, namely the intelligent network (IN). One example of such an intelligent network is CAMEL (Customized Applications for Mobile network Enhanced Logic) which is accommodated to the GSM system. The aim of such intelligent networks is for example to enable the

30   creation of customized services that could be used by subscribers as well as by network operators. Furthermore, the introduction of new services in telecommunication networks shall be facilitated. The central authority in such an intelligent network is a so-called service control

35   point (SCP) which controls distinct calls.

In mobile telecommunication systems, it is essential to
know where a subscriber, i.e. a terminal equipment such as
a mobile station MS, is located. That is, the location of
5   the subscriber within the network, at least in which area
or cell of the network, has to be detectable. There are
several methods, as commonly known by persons skilled in
the art, by which the location of the subscriber can be
determined.
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As one possibility, the location can be detected, for
example, by accessing a Mobile Location Centre (MLC) for
obtaining the latest position of the terminal. For external
users, so-called Gateway Mobile Location Centres (GMLC) are
15   provided, which can be directly connected to an external
user. These Location Centres (MLC, GLMC) determine the
Mobile services Switching Centres (MSC) or Visited Mobile
services Switching Centres (VMSC) currently connected to
the subscriber in question on the basis of a Home Location
20   Register (HLR) inquiry. By this measure, the latest
position can easily be obtained by referring to network
elements already implemented in the network.

While it is commonly known that the location information is
25   used for call routing services and the like, also other
implementations for the location information are intended.

One example is to use the location information for
forwarding specified information to the subscriber,
30   depending on his/her position within the telecommunication
network. That is, external users and/or the network
operator send e.g. advertisements, tourist information or
the like concerning the area in which the subscriber is
located.
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Therefore, it is necessary, that the sending side knows in which area the subscriber is located, or which subscribers are within a specified area. To obtain this location information, it is to be requested from the

5   telecommunication network. A corresponding request is directed for example to the GMLC by the requesting external user or network operator, and, if the requesting side has access rights for the location information, the GMLC returns the respective location information of the

10   subscriber in question.

However, there is a certain drawback in the above described location requesting method. Hitherto, the GMLC only contains access control records. The subscriber (or user),

15   to whom the specified information is to be forwarded and whose location information is requested, is not directly involved in the decision process whether the request shall be fulfilled or not. Therefore, it is not possible for the user to control to which requesting part the location

20   information is released, i.e. which information (advertisement and the like) he/she receives.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25   Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a method for processing an information request in a telecommunication system and also a corresponding device and/or system, which provide an improved control for a subscriber to handle said information request.

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According to the present invention, this object is achieved by a method for processing an information request in a communication network, wherein a requesting side contacts a first element of said communication network and sends a

35   request for specific information of a subscriber, said method comprising the steps of receiving a request for

subscriber specific information, processing the request for said subscriber specific information, wherein in said processing a second network element is triggered, checking by said second network element, whether a permission for

5   releasing said subscriber specific information to said requesting side is present, and, if a permission for releasing is present, forwarding said subscriber specific information to said requesting side, and if no permission for releasing is present, refusing the request for said

10 subscriber specific information.

Furthermore, the present invention proposes a device for processing an information request in a communication network, wherein a requesting side contacts a first element

15 of said communication network and sends a request for specific information of a subscriber, said device comprising receiving means for receiving a request for subscriber specific information means for processing the request for said subscriber specific information, wherein a

20 second network element is triggered, and checking whether a permission for releasing said subscriber specific information to said requesting side is present, and means for forwarding said subscriber specific information to said requesting side, if a permission for releasing is present.

25

Moreover, according to the present invention, there is proposed a communication system, said system comprising at least a terminal device of a subscriber, a base station subsystem for connecting said terminal device, a serving

30 center for controlling communication connections to and from said terminal device, a location center for detecting the location of said terminal device within said communication system, and a service control point for providing an operator tailored positioning policy service

35 and triggered by said service center or said location center to perform said operator tailored positioning policy

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service, wherein said operator tailored positioning policy
service is used to involve said subscriber in a decision,
whether a request for subscriber specific information made
by a requesting side is to be fulfilled or not.

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Advantageous further developments of the present invention
are as set out in the respective dependent claims.

According to the present invention, the proposed method
10   and/or device and/or system are very easy implemented since
the usage of the Intelligent Network service environment,
for example a CAMEL service environment CSE, for triggering
an operator tailored positioning policy service provides a
very good compatibility with other different network
15   elements used for the location request. That is, it is e.g.
possible to trigger said operator tailored positioning
policy service when the location request (or another
subscriber specific information request, respectively) is
send to the VMSC connected to said subscriber, wherein said
20   request is sent in the form of a mobile application part
(MAP) location request, e.g. a MAP Provide Subscriber
Location request. Alternatively, it is also possible to use
the HLR for triggering, wherein the request is sent in the
form of a MAP information request, e.g. a MAP Send Info for
25   LCS request.

It is to be noted, that according to the invention the SCP
can be triggered by various network elements, such as the
GMLC, the VMSC, the HLR and the like, depending on the
30   design of the network. Moreover, the present invention is
also applicable in an packet switched network environment
such as general packet radio services GPRS. That is, the
SCP can also be triggered for example by a serving GPRS
support node (SGSN).

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As commonly known, the home location register (HLR) records contain several information about the subscriber. According to the present invention, there are also stored information that in case of a request for subscriber specific
5   information such as location information the corresponding intelligent network element SCP (i.e. the operator tailored positioning policy service) is triggered. The network address of the SCP is also stored in the HLR.

10   Furthermore, the subscriber specific information can be requested by several different stations, for example by a service provider or by another subscriber located in the same or in a different area.

15   According to the present invention, it is further possible to define different decision modes. One is for example to directly contact the subscriber in question and to ask for the permission to fulfill the request for e.g. location information. Contacting the subscriber (i.e. the terminal
20   device) can be performed for example by sending a short message (SMS), a unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) message, a wireless telephony application (WTA) indication by using a WTA service, and the like. This message may contain an identification of the requesting
25   side.

The message can be delivered to the mobile station for example via a wireless application protocol (WAP) content push. The content of the message can include several forms.
30   For example, it is possible that the content includes Java. Also other contents produced by the respective terminal (mobile station, SCP) are possible.

A message concerning a decision whether to fulfill the
35   request or not can be sent back to the network via the same kind of message service, or also via another message

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service different to that used before. The message types
are definable for example by the network operator.

The identification of the requesting side can have various

5   forms commonly known to persons skilled in the art. Most
preferably, it should enable the subscriber to easy
identify the requesting side, for example by a name or a
logo or the like.

10   Also, an indication of the reason of the request, for
example sending of tourist information, can be indicated.
Therefore, it is also possible to filter location requests
not only by checking the identification of the requesting
side (i.e. who is requesting), but also by the reason why

15   the location information (or other subscriber specific
information) are requested. For example, when a requesting
side is able to send advertisement as well as tourist
information, but the subscriber wishes only to receive the
latter, it is possible to refuse requests due to

20   advertisements and fulfill requests due to tourist
information.

Alternatively, as a further decision mode, it is possible
to check whether the requesting side is authorized to

25   request subscriber specific information. This may be
especially the case for service providers. On the basis of
a comparison of the identification of the requesting side
with an table or the like, in which authorized
identifications are stored, it is possible to decide

30   whether to fulfill a location information request or not.
The authorized identification can be input by the
subscriber in advance and/or by the network operator.

It is also possible to define an automatic decision mode,

35   in which it is preset by the subscriber, whether to fulfill
requests of all requesting sides independent of which kind

they are, or to refuse all location requests of the kind
described above. Furthermore, it is also possible for the
subscriber to define a specified requesting side or group
of requesting sides for which a request shall be fulfilled.
5   This can be performed for example by forming a table or the
like.

Moreover, according to the present invention, there is
provided an ability for logging all requests for subscriber
10   specific information, for example in a memory.

Preferred embodiments of the invention are described herein
below in detail by way of example with reference to the
accompanying drawings.
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a block circuit diagram of a simplified
structure of a telecommunication network.
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FIG. 2 shows a flowchart of a first embodiment of the
present invention.

FIG. 3 shows a flowchart of a second embodiment of the
25   present invention.

FIG. 4 shows a flowchart of the second embodiment of the
present invention.

30   FIG. 5 shows a flowchart of the second embodiment of the
present invention.

FIG. 6 shows a flowchart of the second embodiment of the
present invention.
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FIG. 7 shows a message chart illustration a message flow for performing the present invention.

FIG. 8 shows a device arranged to perform the method
5   according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In FIG. 1, one simplified example of a telecommunication
10 network such as a GSM network is shown. It is to be noted
that the example shown in FIG. 1 illustrates a case in
which a subscriber (mobile station MS) is located in a
network different to his/her home network, i.e. he/she is
located in a so-called visited network. However, it is
15 obvious that the present invention, implemented in a
network structure such as shown in FIG. 1 and described
below, also works in the home network area.

Reference numeral 10 denotes a terminal device such as a
20 mobile station MS of a subscriber. Reference numeral 20
denotes a base station subsystem BSS which comprises at
least one base transceiver station BTS and a base station
controller BSC. The base station subsystem is arranged to
communicate with the mobile station 10.
25
Reference numeral 30 denotes a visited mobile service
switching center VMSC. The mobile service switching center
is arranged to control the communication to and from the
mobile station. Here, the VMSC is located in a so-called
30 visited area, i.e. a communication area within the
communication network, which is not the home area. However,
it is obvious that the MSC 30 could be also an MSC located
in the home area of the subscriber.

35 Reference numerals 40 and 80 denote gateway mobile location
centers GMLC, each of which is connectable to external

users 50 and 90. These external users, located for example
either in the home area or in the visited area, may be
other subscribers, service provider, network operator, and
the like. The GMLC are connected to a home location

5   register HLR in which data concerning the location,
location changes and the like of the terminal device 10
(i.e. of the subscriber) are registered.

Reference numeral 70 denotes a service control point SCP,
10   as a controlling part of a intelligent network IN, such as
CAMEL, which is connected to other network elements, such
as the HLR, VMSC or the like.

There may be the case that one of said external users 50,
15   90 intends to send, for example, advertisement or the like,
which is directed to the area (cell area or the like) in
which the subscriber is located. Thus the information of
the subscribers which are located in the specific area are
needed. Therefore, a request for location information of
20   the subscriber is sent from the respective external user
(i.e. from the requesting side) to a corresponding
communication network element, i.e. to the corresponding
GMLC 40, 80.

25   When, for example, a MAP location request is sent to the
VMSC or the HLR, as described above, the service control
point 70 is triggered to perform the operator tailored
positioning policy service.

30   With reference to FIG. 2, now a first embodiment of the
present invention for handling a request for subscriber
specific information is described.

In the flowchart shown in FIG. 2, in step S110, the network
35   receives, for example via the GMLC 40, 80, a request for
location information of the subscriber 10 from an external

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user 50, 90. Within said request an identification of the
requesting side or the type of service requesting location
information might be included. The request can be further
processed by sending corresponding request messages to the
5   VMSC 30 or the HLR 60, as described above.

When receiving such a request, the intelligent network
element, i.e. the SCP 70, is triggered (step S120). Now,
the operator tailored positioning policy service is
10   performed. Therefor, in step S130, the subscriber (i.e. the
user) is contacted by using a message service such as SMS,
USSD, WTA service indication and the like. This message may
also comprise the identification of the requesting side or
the type of service requesting location information.
15

The subscriber is asked, on the basis of the identification
indicated in the message, to decide whether said request is
to be fulfilled or not, i.e. whether to release the
location information to the requesting side or not. This
20   decision can be done for example by a key input or the
like. The result of the decision is then sent back to the
network.

After receiving the result and determining the decision in
25   step S140, the process proceeds to step S150. Here, when
the decision of the subscriber is positive, i.e. the
location information can be released to the requesting
side, the operator tailored positioning policy service
(i.e. the SCP) permits to fulfill the request (step S170)
30   via the VMSC (or HLR) and the GMLC. Then, for example, the
GMLC sends the requested location information (S180), which
have been received from the HLR or the VMSC after the above
mentioned inquiry.

35   In the case, that the decision of the subscriber is
negative, the GMLC refuses (step S160) the request after

being informed, for example via the SCP and the VMSC.
Therefor, a corresponding message can be sent to the
requesting side.

5   Thereafter, the process is ended (step S190).

In the embodiment described with reference to FIG. 2, a
case is described in which the subscriber is contacted
directly after the network received a request for
10   subscriber specific information. That is, the subscriber
can decide for every request, for example via a key input.

With reference to FIGS. 3 to 8, a further embodiment is
described in which several different decision condition
15   modes are included.

In FIG. 3, steps S210 and S220 correspond to steps S110 and
S120 of FIG. 2, and a description can be omitted.

20   In step S230, a check is performed which preset decision
condition mode is present. The presetting of said mode can
be performed for example in advance in the design phase of
the network. Alternatively, the subscriber can set the
mode, for example via his/her terminal device, and change
25   it, if desired.

First, it is checked whether an authority decision mode is
set (step S240). The authority decision mode enables to set
a criteria in the operator tailored positioning policy
30   service, by which certain requesting sides are recognized
to be authorized to get subscriber specific information.
This criteria may be a code or the like which is included
in the request. Also, the identification of the requesting
side itself can be used as indication for the
35   authorization.

If the authority decision mode is not set, in step S250, a
check is made whether the decision mode is an automatic
decision mode. In the automatic decision mode, the
subscriber or the network operator has set to handle the
5   requests dependent who has made the request. For example,
it is possible to set that all requests has to be fulfilled
or refused. Another possibility is to set that only
requests from specified requesting sides or groups of
requesting sides (for example from all tourist information
10   offices or the like) have to be fulfilled.

Alternatively, it is possible to filter location requests
not only by checking the identification of the requesting
side (i.e. who is requesting), but also by the reason why
15   the location information (or other subscriber specific
information) are requested. For example, if the subscriber
wishes only to receive tourist information, it is possible
to refuse requests due to advertisements and fulfill
requests due to tourist information. This requires an
20   information indicating the reason or the kind of
information the requesting wishes to send.

If also the automatic decision mode is not set, the process
proceeds to a step S270 in FIG. 6, i.e. it is adopted that
25   the subscriber has to decide directly whether to fulfill
the request or not. The steps S270 to S276 correspond to
the steps S130 to S190 in FIG. 2, and a description thereof
can be omitted.

30   If in step S240 of FIG. 3 the authority decision mode is
set, the process proceeds to step S241 shown in FIG. 4.
Here, the identification of the requesting side is
determined. In step S242, the determined identification is
compared as a decision criteria with a table containing
35   authorized identifications. Said table is stored for
example in a memory. Alternatively, instead of the

identification of the requesting side, a code indicating an
authorization and sent with the request is determined in
step S241 and checked in step S242. The way how to check
the authorization can be set for example by the network
5   operator.

Anyhow, in step S243, it is determined, on the basis of a
result of the comparison in step S242, whether the
requesting side is authorized. If NO, then the request is
10   refused (step S244). If YES, in steps S245 and S246 the
request is fulfilled. This corresponds to the steps S160 to
S180 in FIG. 2. In step S247, the process is ended.

If in step S250 in FIG. 3 the automatic decision mode is
15   set, the process proceeds to step S251 in FIG. 5. Here, a
predetermined automatic decision condition is determined.

If a specified condition is set (step S252), the
identification of the requesting side is compared with
20   predetermined identifications of requesting sides for which
a request is to be fulfilled (step S254). These
predetermined identifications are stored for example in a
memory and defined by the subscriber. In the following
steps S254 and S255 the request of the requesting sides
25   which are contained in said table of predetermined
identifications is fulfilled, as already described above.
Although not shown in FIG. 5, it is obvious that requests
of requesting sides with identifications not included in
said table are to be refused.
30
If in step S252 no specified condition is set, the process
proceeds to step S257 in which it is checked if a general
permission condition is set. If the general permission is
set, i.e. all requests may be fulfilled, the location
35   information is sent to the requesting side (steps S259,
S260). On the other hand, if no general permission is set,

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all requests are refused (step S258). In step S256, the
process is ended.

It is to be noted, that the above described decision modes
5   (automatic, authority) can also be used separately or in
other combinations as described above. This can be defined
by the corresponding network operator during the design
phase of the network or changed later.

10   In FIG. 7, a message diagram is shown by which a message
flow between network elements involved in a request
handling according to the present invention is described.

After the GMLC has received a request for, e.g., location
15   information of the subscriber from a requesting side, a MAP
sending info for LCS request message M1 is sent to the home
location register HLR. This is also described above. In the
HLR, it is recognized that a request is handled whereby the
service control point SCP is triggered by a corresponding
20   signal M2 to perform the operator tailored positioning
policy service.

In the SCP, a content presentation request is started by
the policy service. Therefor, a corresponding content
25   presentation request message M3 is sent to a so-called
content server, which may be included for example in the
SCP, or in a separate network element.

The content server is arranged to form a message by which
30   the subscriber is informed about the request by a message
containing the necessary information in a form usable for,
e.g., a decision via a key input at the terminal device MS.
The form of this message is for example a WAP page or the
like which can be displayed or represented at the mobile
35   station MS.

From the content server, the massage is delivered for
example by a WAP content push (message M4) via a WAP
gateway to the mobile station (i.e. to the subscriber) for
transmitting the information indicating the request. The
5   content may include Java or another content which is
produced by the corresponding terminal.

The message is received at the mobile station MS and
processed accordingly (i.e. displaying on a screen,
10   receiving and processing input by the subscriber and the
like). Next, from the mobile station MS, a message M5
indicating the response of the subscriber (determined by
the key input or the like) is sent back via WAP gateway to
the content server. Therefrom, it is forwarded to the
15   service control point SCP (message M6). Here, the message
is processed by the policy service. On the basis of said
processing, it is decided whether to give a permission or a
denial concerning the request. This is indicated to the HLR
by a corresponding message M7. Then, depending on the
20   decision, a positioning, i.e. a sending of location
information, is performed, or the positioning is refused,
as commonly known to persons skilled in the art.

FIG. 8 refers to a device according to the present
25   invention. Reference numeral 100 denotes a transceiver
means for communicating with the subscriber and the
requesting side. There can be only one transceiver means
for communicating with both sides or separated transceiver
means each of which arranged to communicate with one
30   counterpart. This may depend on the type of messages used
for the communications, i.e. for the request, the message
for asking a decision and the like.

Reference numeral 200 denotes a intelligent network means
35   for processing and triggering the operator tailored
positioning policy service, i.e. for deciding whether the

received request for subscriber specific information may be
fulfilled for the respective requesting side or not. The
way how the decision is made can be for example consulting
the subscriber/user directly, using a predetermined
5   decision condition (automatic, authority) or the like, as
described above. The means 200 is arranged to form a
message for the subscriber, to determine which decision is
made, to handle the request dependent on this decision
(refuse/fulfill). Furthermore, it is arranged to determine
10   whether and which decision condition mode is set. Also a
comparison between the identification of the requesting
side and, e.g., stored identifications is performed by the
intelligent network means 200.

15   Reference numeral 300 denotes a memory which may be used
for storing different kinds of data. For example,
identifications of requesting side which are authorized can
be stored herein. Also one or more codes indicating an
authorization of a requesting side can be stored. These
20   data are then used by the intelligent network means 200 for
a comparison with a received identification or code from a
requesting side.

The memory 300 can also be used for storing identification
25   data of requesting sides predetermined by the subscriber.
Furthermore, it is possible to store information concerning
a preset decision mode (automatic and the like).

As an alternative, received requests or at least an
30   indication of received requests (counter) can be stored in
said memory 300, for example for statistical purposes.

There can be used one single memory (RAM or the like), or
different means used for separate storing functions (for
35   example one for authorized identifications, one for
logging, and the like).

It should be noted, that the means of the device in FIG. 8
can be included in one network element or in separate
network elements. Moreover, the function of the

5   corresponding means, in particular of means 200, can be
distributed among different parts of the communication
network.

The present invention proposes a method for processing an
10   information request in a communication network, wherein a
requesting side contacts a first element of said
communication network and sends a request for specific
information of a subscriber, said method comprising the
steps of receiving a request for subscriber specific
15   information, processing the request for said subscriber
specific information, wherein in said processing a second
network element is triggered, checking by said second
network element, whether a permission for releasing said
subscriber specific information to said requesting side is
20   present, and, if a permission for releasing is present,
forwarding said subscriber specific information to said
requesting side, and if no permission for releasing is
present, refusing the request for said subscriber specific
information. The present invention also proposes a
25   corresponding device and/or system. The present invention
enables a consultation of the subscriber whether he/she
permits a release of information concerning him/her, e.g.
by using an intelligent network environment.

30   It should be understood that the above description and
accompanying figures are merely intended to illustrate the
present invention by way of example only. The preferred
embodiments of the present invention may thus vary within
the scope of the attached claims.
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CLAIMS

1. A method for processing an information request in a communication network, wherein a requesting side (50, 90) contacts a first element (40, 80) of said communication network and sends a request for specific information of a subscriber (10), **said method comprising the steps of:**

receiving (S110; S210) a request for subscriber specific information;

processing (S120, S130; S220, S230, S240, S250; S241; S251, S252; S270) the request for said subscriber specific information, wherein in said processing a second network element is triggered;

checking (S140, S150; S242, S243; S253, S257; S271, S272) by said second network element, whether a permission for releasing said subscriber specific information to said requesting side is present; and,

if a permission for releasing is present, forwarding (S170, S180; S245, S246; S254, S255, S259, S260; S274, S275) said subscriber specific information to said requesting side, and if no permission for releasing is present, refusing (S160; S244; S258; S273) the request for said subscriber specific information.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said request comprises an identification of said requesting side.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said request comprises an information concerning a reason for the request by the requesting side.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said requesting side (50, 90) is a service provider.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said requesting side (50, 90) is another subscriber.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said specific
subscriber information requested by said requesting side
(50, 90) is a location information of said subscriber (10).

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said requesting
side (50, 90) contacts for receiving said subscriber
specific information a visited mobile service switching
center (30) which is connected to said subscriber (10), and
said request is sent in the form of a MAP location request.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein said requesting
side (50, 90) contacts for receiving said subscriber
specific information a home location register (60), and
said request is sent in the form of a MAP information
request.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said second
network element (70) is a service control point of an
intelligent network.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said service
control point (70) provides an operator tailored
positioning policy service.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said processing
step comprises the further steps of
        contacting (S130) said subscriber (10) and
transmitting (S130) a message indicating said request of
said requesting side (50, 90) for a decision of said
subscriber on the basis of said transmitted message,
whether to release said subscriber specific information or
not;
        receiving and determining (S140) said decision of said
subscriber; and,

if the decision to release said subscriber specific information is positive, fulfilling (S170, S180) said request, or, if the decision is negative, refusing (S160) said request.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein said message indicating said request of said requesting side is a short message and transmitted by using a short message service.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein said message indicating said request of said requesting side is an unstructured supplementary service data message.

14. A method according to claim 11, wherein said message indicating said request of said requesting side is a wireless telephony application indication and transmitted by using a wireless telephony application service.

15. A method according to claim 11, wherein said message is delivered by using a wireless application protocol content push.

16. A method according to claim 1, wherein said processing step comprises the further step of checking (S230) a preset decision condition.

17. A method according to claim 16, comprising the further steps of:
     if in said preset decision condition an authority mode is activated (S240), determining (S241) an identification of said requesting side;
     comparing (S242), whether said identification is included in a table stored in a memory containing authorized identifications; and

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if the requesting side is authorized (S243),
fulfilling (S245, S246) said request, or, if the requesting
side is not authorized, refusing (S244) said request.

18. A method according to claim 16, comprising the further
steps of:

if in said preset decision condition an automatic mode
is activated (S250), determining (S251) the kind of said
automatic mode activated.

19. A method according to claim 18, comprising the further
steps of:

if said automatic mode activated is a specified
automatic mode (S252), comparing (S253), whether an
identification of said requesting side is included in a
table stored in a memory containing identifications stored
by said subscriber in a memory; and

fulfilling (S254, S255) said request for a requesting
side the identification of which is included in said table.

20. A method according to claim 16, comprising the further
steps of:

if said automatic mode activated is a general
permission automatic mode (S252, S257), determining,
whether the request for said subscriber specific
information is to be fulfilled for all requests or to be
refused for all requests; and

if said request is to be fulfilled for all requests,
sending (S259, S260) said subscriber specific information,
or, if said request is to be refused for all requests,
refusing (S258) said request.

21. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the
step of logging said request for subscriber specific
information in a memory.

22. A device for processing an information request in a communication network, wherein a requesting side (50, 90) contacts a first element (40, 80) of said communication network and sends a request for specific information of a subscriber (10), **said device comprising:**

receiving means (100) for receiving a request for subscriber specific information;

means (200) for processing the request for said subscriber specific information, wherein a second network element is triggered, and checking whether a permission for releasing said subscriber specific information to said requesting side is present, and

means (100) for forwarding said subscriber specific information to said requesting side, if a permission for releasing is present.

23. A device according to claim 22, wherein said request comprises an identification of said requesting side.

24. A device according to claim 22, wherein said request comprises an information concerning a reason for the request by the requesting side.

25. A device according to claim 22, wherein said requesting side is a service provider.

26. A device according to claim 22, wherein said requesting side is another subscriber.

27. A device according to claim 22, wherein said specific subscriber information requested by said requesting side is a location information of said subscriber.

28. A device according to claim 27, wherein said requesting side (50, 90) contacts for receiving said subscriber specific information a visited mobile service switching

center (30) which is connected to said subscriber (10), and
said request is sent in the form of a MAP location request.

29. A device according to claim 27, wherein said requesting
side (50, 90) contacts for receiving said subscriber
specific information a home location register (60), and
said request is sent in the form of a MAP information
request.

30. A device according to claim 27, wherein said message is
delivered by using a wireless application protocol content
push.

31. A device according to claim 22, wherein said means
(200) for processing and checking said request is
implemented in a service control point (70) of an
intelligent network.

32. A device according to claim 31, wherein said service
control point is arranged to provide an operator tailored
positioning policy service.

33. A device according to claim 22, wherein said means
(200) for processing and checking said request is triggered
by said first network element after receiving said request
for subscriber specific information.

34. A device according to claim 33, wherein said means for
processing and checking said request is arranged to send a
message indicating said request of said requesting side to
said subscriber.

35. A device according to claim 34, wherein said message
indicating said request of said requesting side is a short
message and transmitted by using a short message service.

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36. A device according to claim 34, wherein said message indicating said request of said requesting side is an unstructured supplementary service data message.

5   37. A device according to claim 34, wherein said message indicating said request of said requesting side is a wireless telephony application indication and transmitted by using a wireless telephony application service.

10   38. A device according to claim 33, said device further comprises a memory (300), and said means (200) for processing and checking said request is arranged to compare an identification of said requesting side with identification data stored in said memory.

15

39. A device according to claim 38, wherein said request for subscriber specific information is logged in a memory.

40. A communication system, said system comprising at least
20   a terminal device (10) of a subscriber;
            a base station subsystem (20) for connecting said terminal device;
            a serving center (30) for controlling communication connections to and from said terminal device;
25   a location center (40, 80) for detecting the location of said terminal device (10) within said communication system; and
            a service control point (70) for providing an operator tailored positioning policy service and triggered by said
30   service center or said location center to perform said operator tailored positioning policy service, wherein said operator tailored positioning policy service is used to involve said subscriber in a decision, whether a request for subscriber specific information made by a requesting
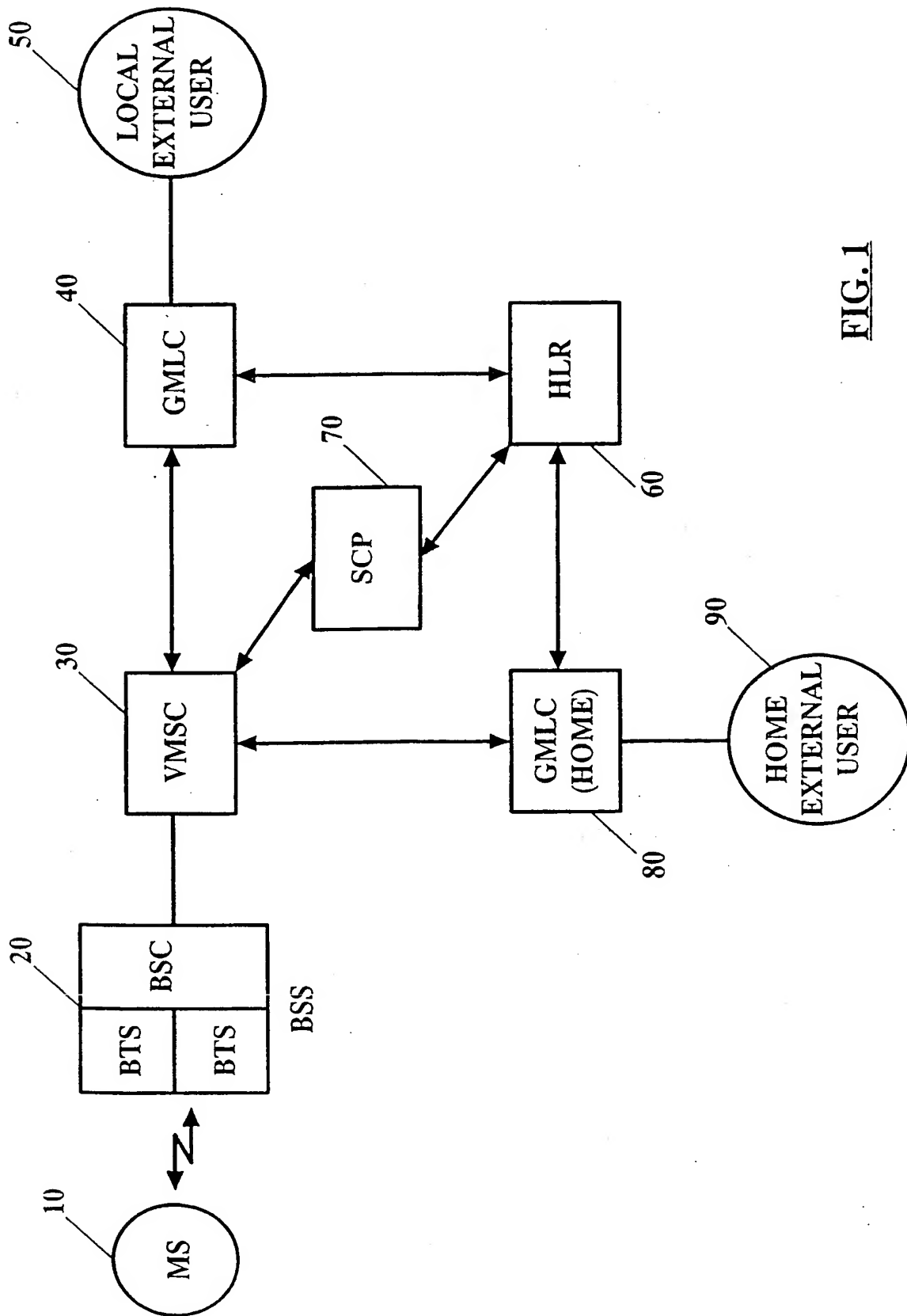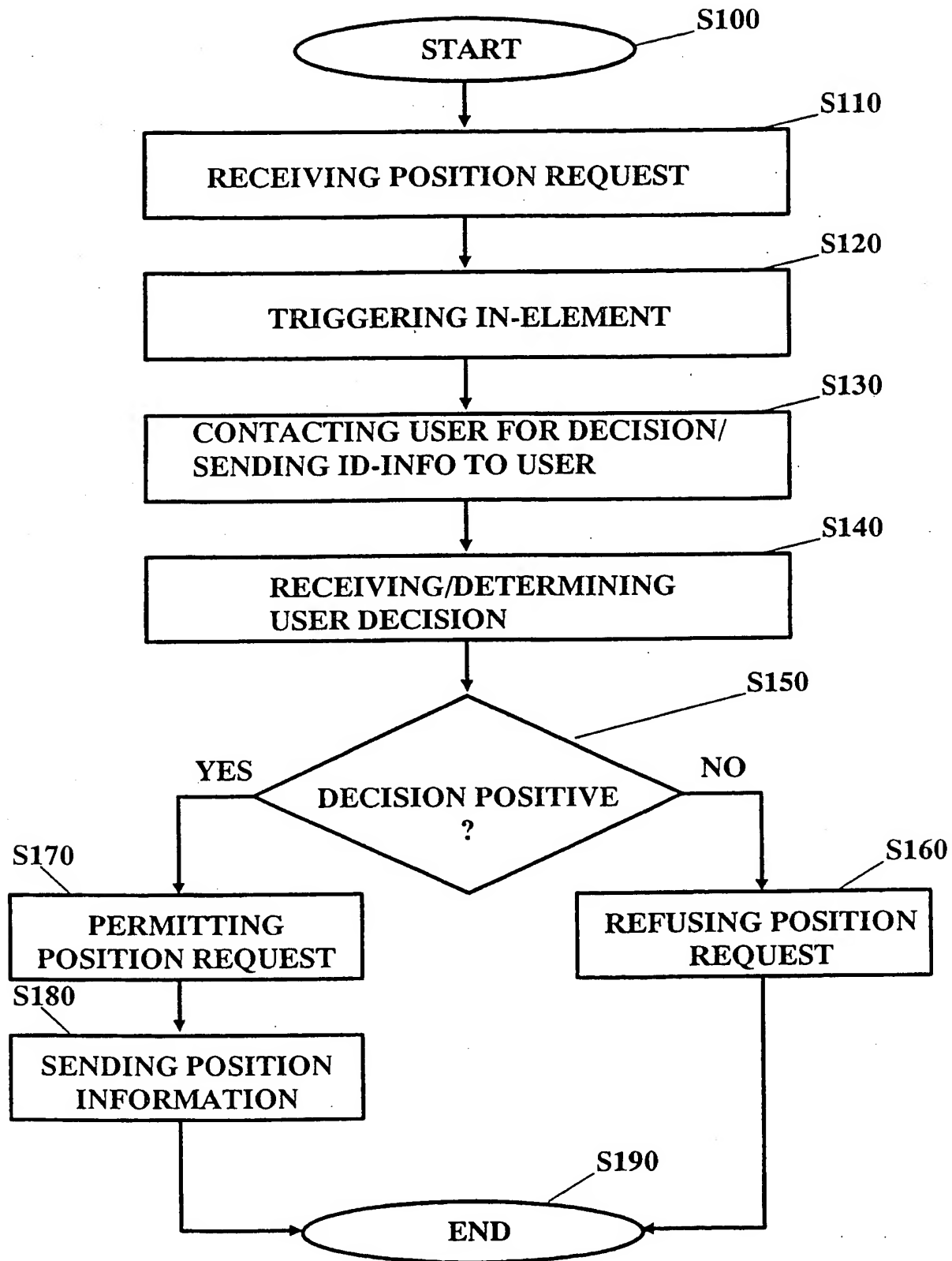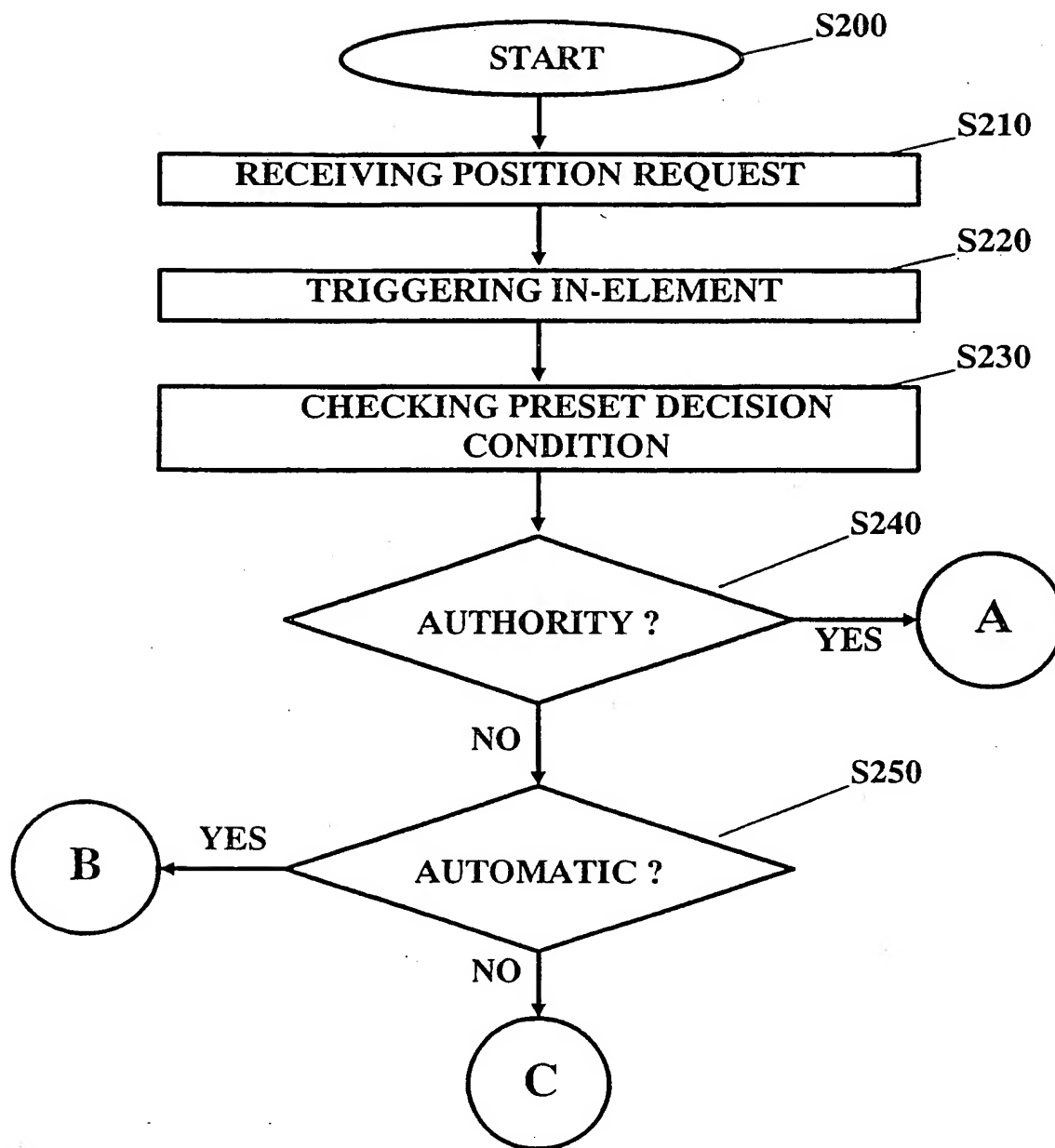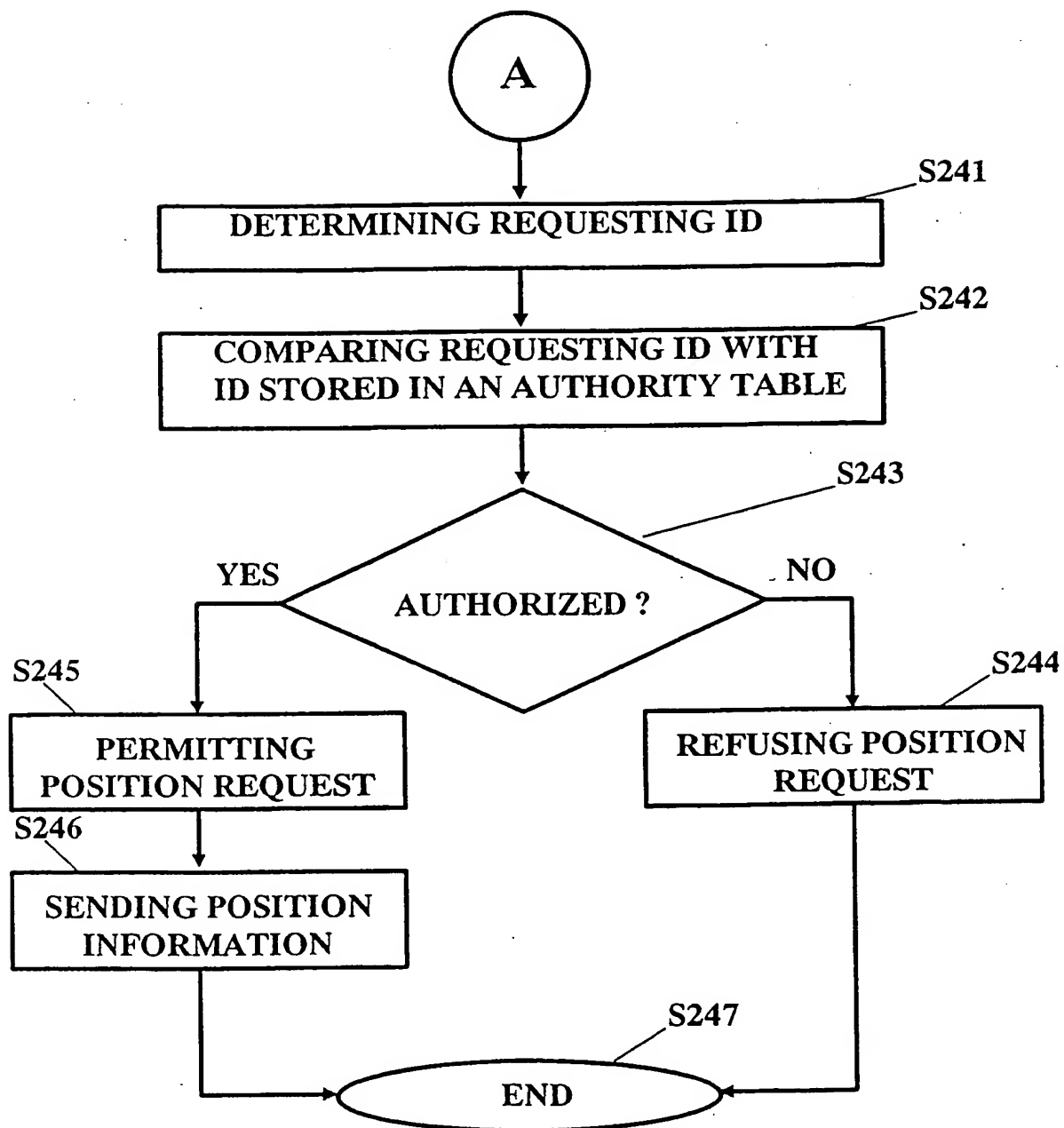35   side (50, 90) is to be fulfilled or not.
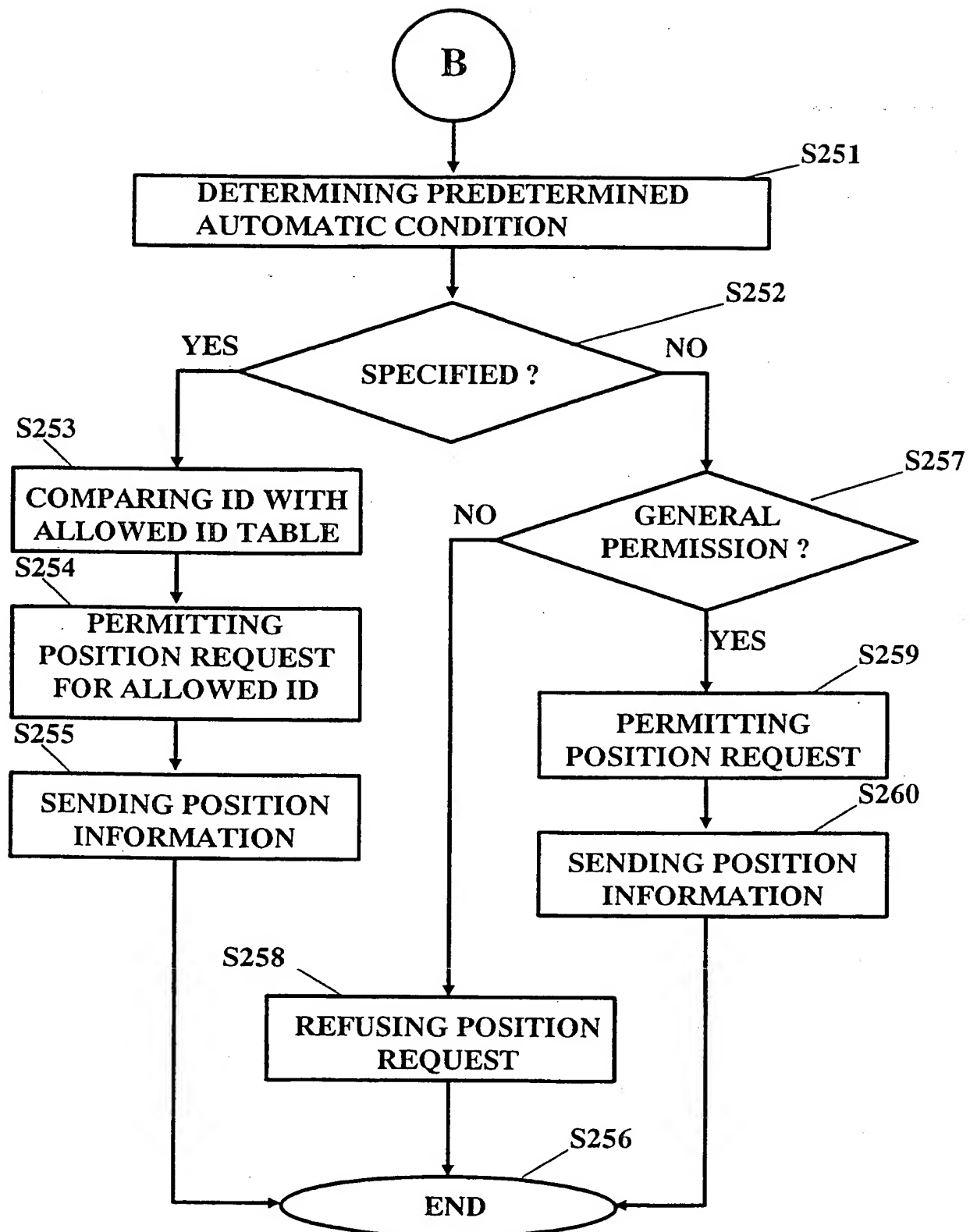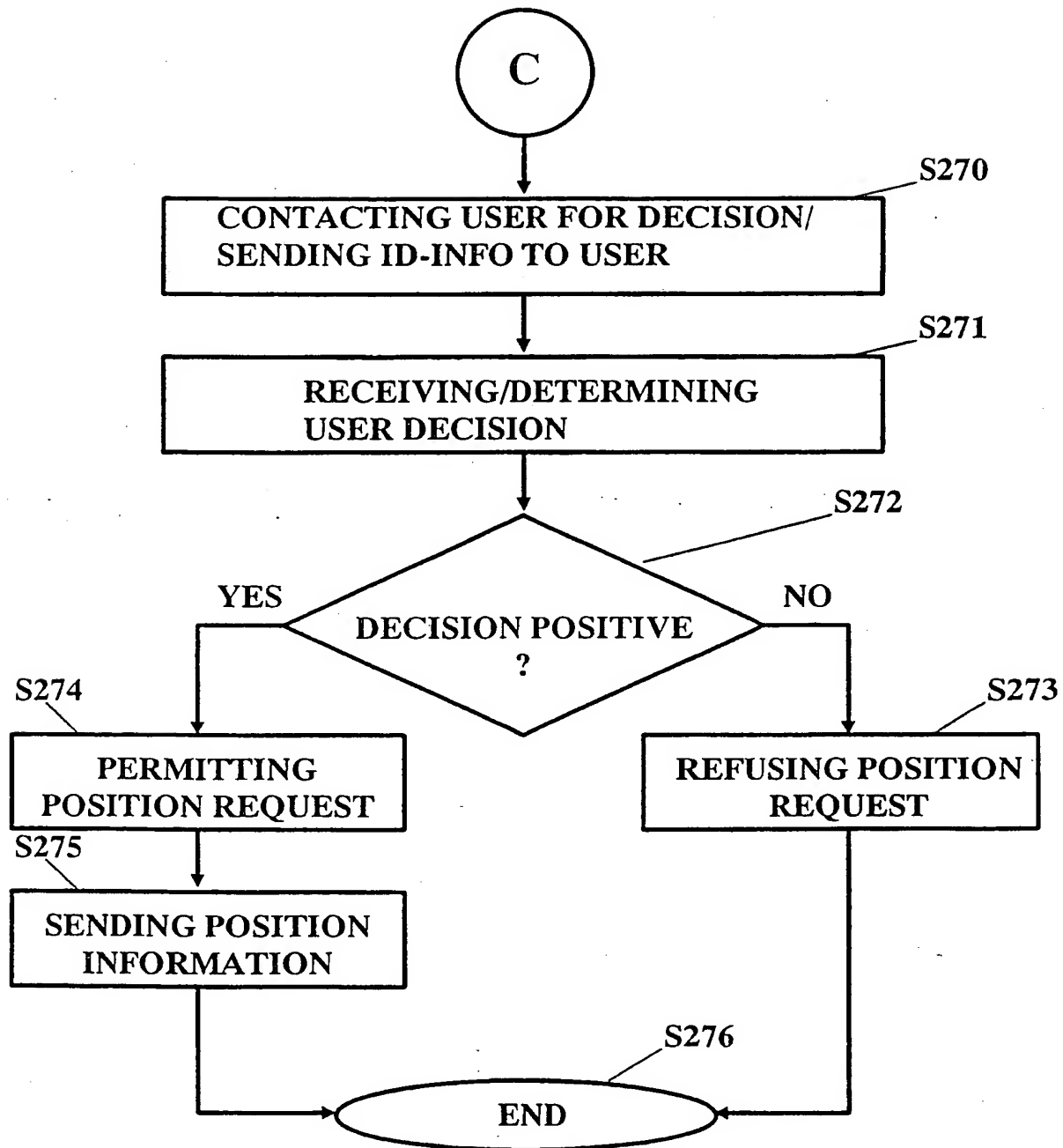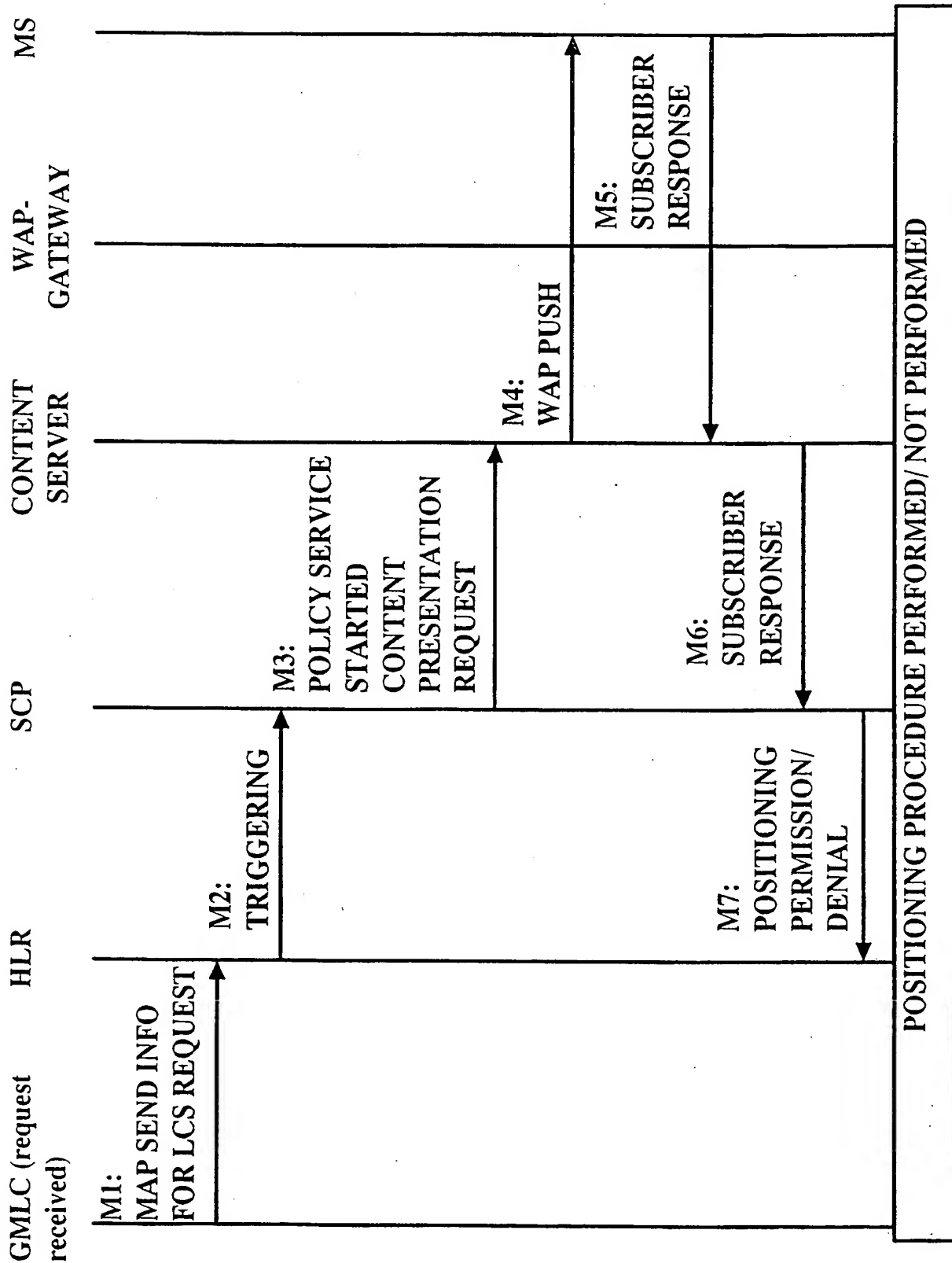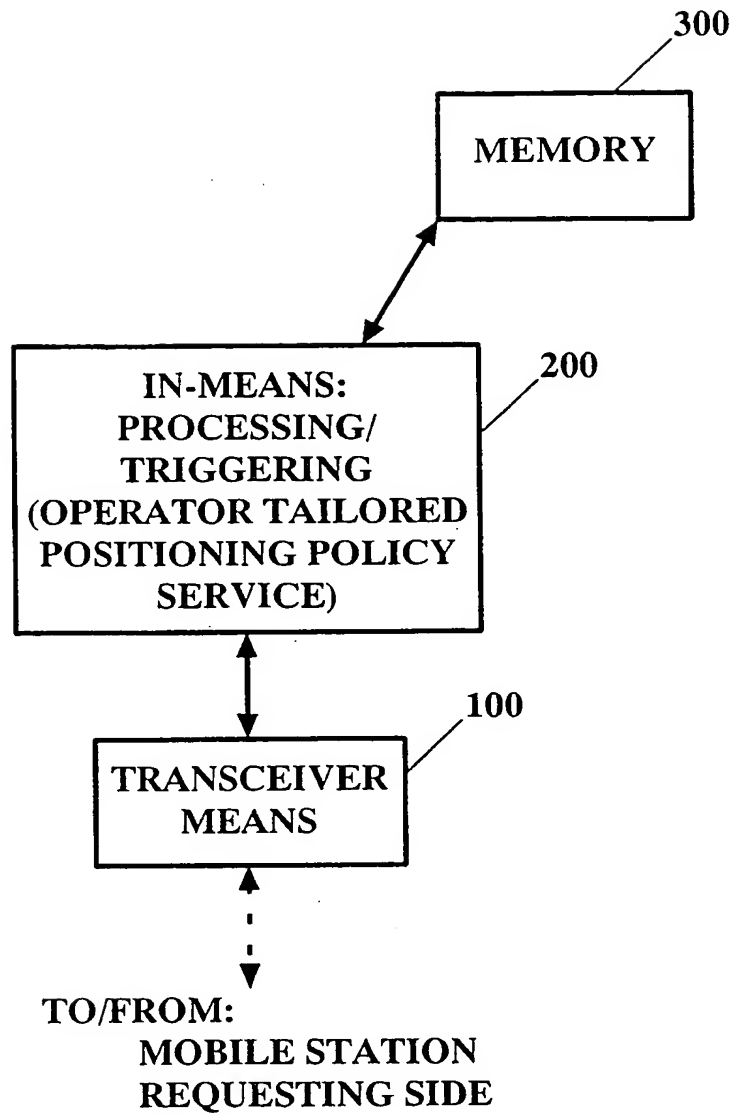
FIG.1

FIG. 2

START — S200

↓

RECEIVING POSITION REQUEST — S210

↓

TRIGGERING IN-ELEMENT — S220

↓

CHECKING PRESET DECISION CONDITION — S230

↓

AUTHORITY ? — S240   →YES→ A

NO ↓

AUTOMATIC ? — S250   ←YES← B

NO ↓

C

FIG. 3

FIG. 4

FIG. 5

FIG. 6

FIG. 7

FIG. 8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7   H04Q7/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7   H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 950 137 A (KIM YOUNG-JE) 7 September 1999 (1999-09-07)	1,2,5,6, 11, 16-20, 22,23, 26-28, 33,40
	column 3, line 51 -column 5, line 3 ---	
X	WO 99 55115 A (ERICSSON INC) 28 October 1999 (1999-10-28)	1-3,6, 16-20, 22,23, 27,33, 34,40
	page 7, line 7 -page 11, line 8 ---	
	-/--	

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.   [X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
20 July 2000	26/07/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
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	PCT/EP 99/09043

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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US 5852775	A	22-12-1998	NONE		